

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action of December 17, 2003, claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-15 were rejected and claims 4 and 9 were objected to. Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 12, and 14 and traverse the rejections as follows.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 was objected to because in line 2, "a" should be deleted, and in line 3, "to" should be inserted following "respond". Applicants have amended claim 4 to overcome the objection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 3, 5, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended these claims and therefore requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Duske, Jr. et al. (6,292,473). It was alleged that Duske teaches the limitation of field-mapping information, i.e., a "reply alias" or a "source alias" (Duske, col. 29, lines 1-26). Applicants have amended claim 1 and 12 in order to better clarify what Applicants consider to be their invention, and traverse the rejections as follows.

Applicants believe that Duske does not teach field-mapping information, as now claimed. The passage from Duske, noted above, teaches a system where a destination address of a response message may be automatically chosen by the software and placed in the address field of the response message. The software automatically determines the destination address to put into the response message based on either a) a default address, b) the source address of the incoming message, or c) the source alias provided by a middleware's header information. Thus, Duske teaches an auto-fill system that is dependent on *information provided in the incoming message, not on the type of formatted message received*.

Applicants claim field-mapping information which defines a relationship between incoming and response messages, i.e., defines which fields will be copied into a response message *depending on which formatted message was received and a selected response message*. It is not dependent on information contained within the received message, as Duske teaches. Therefore, Applicants believe that Duske does not teach all of Applicants' claim limitations, and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn with respect to claims 1 and 12, as well as claims 5, 6, 13, and 14, which are dependent on what Applicants believe to be allowable claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duske, Jr. et al. in view of Averbuch et al. (5,896,566). It was alleged that Duske teaches all of the claim limitations, except that Duske does not teach that the field-mapping information is configurable by a remote entity or transmitted to the communication terminal from a remote location. Applicants believe that even the combination of Duske and Averbuch still does not teach field-mapping information as now claimed, based on the arguments presented above with respect to Duske.

Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, and 15 were rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner et al. (6,169,911) in view of well known prior art. It was alleged that Wagner teaches all of Applicants' claim limitations, but does not teach which information fields should be copied into a response message, or creating the response message using the identified information fields.

Applicants believe that Wagner does not teach the limitation of field-mapping information. Nor does the "well known prior art".

It was alleged that Wagner teaches the transmission of formatted messages and a message identification code (i.e., a subject line). Applicants assert that a subject line in an email message is different than a message identification code. Two email messages can have the same subject line, rendering differentiation between the two impossible, based only on the subject line.

It was also alleged that the well know prior art comprises email systems which automatically copy a message originator's address into a destination address of a response message, as well as the contents of the original message into the body of the response message. Applicants note that the action of copying an originator's address and original message into a response message does not depend on which one of a number of pre-defined response messages was received. Email does not make use of pre-defined messages; each email message comprises an identical format (i.e., "from", "to", "subject", etc). Therefore, there is no way to determine which information fields

from the original message to be copied into a response message based on the *particular* message received.

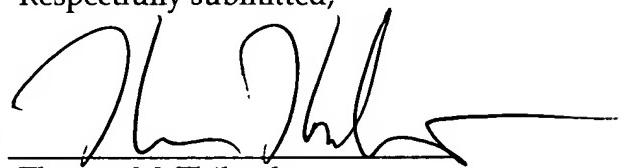
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: 3/17/04

Respectfully submitted,

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